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WASHINGTON

November 26, 1983

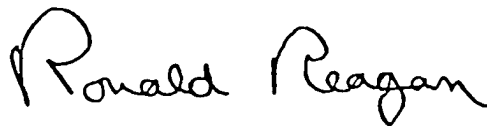
*National Security
Decision Directive 114*

U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR (S)

I have reviewed and approved the Terms of Reference to govern our political and military consultations with our key Allies and the Gulf Arab states. Political consultations should begin immediately followed by military consultations with those Allies and regional states which express a willingness to cooperate with us in planning measures necessary to deter or defend against attacks on or interference with non-belligerent shipping or on critical oil productions and transshipment facilities in the Persian Gulf. (TS)

In our consultations we should assign the highest priority to access arrangements which would facilitate the rapid deployment of those forces necessary to defend the critical oil facilities and transshipment points against air or sapper attacks. Specific recommendations bearing on U.S. plans and force deployments should be submitted for approval following the consultations. (TS)

It is present United States policy to undertake whatever measures may be necessary to keep the Strait of Hormuz open to international shipping. Accordingly, U.S. military forces will attempt to deter and, if that fails, to defeat any hostile efforts to close the Strait to international shipping. Because of the real and psychological impact of a curtailment in the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf on the international economic system, we must assure our readiness to deal promptly with actions aimed at disrupting that traffic. The Secretary of Defense and Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, in coordination with the Secretary of State, are requested to maintain a continuing review of tensions in the area and to take appropriate measures to assure the readiness of U.S. forces to respond expeditiously. (TS)

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